



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Akasia Oberly (8) boots a ball out of danger during the Lady Bobcats' 4-1 home win over ever-scrappy Center on April 10, as teammates Shawni Troup (20), Jasmine Red (6) and Sally Niggli (18) look on.

Soccer sees strides vs. Bucs

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Though rather hard to see amidst the heavy gray clouds shrouding IHS Field last Saturday, there was a slight silver lining shining through—surrounding the Lady Bobcats' recent back-to-back losses.

Maybe not bright enough to preview a blinding performance against 3A Southwestern-leading Bayfield, but certainly boding well for upcoming rematch matches against Center, Ridgway, and—saying this for the first time in a long while—Pagosa Springs, which barely managed to beat both the afternoon's snowstorm and weather-ignorant Ignacio with just four goals.

"This game started off...our forwards were a little bit lackadaisical, little bit sleepy," said head coach Andrew Fenity, "but I think we started turning it forward and doing much, much better."

"Next time we'll come out stronger and more aggressively...more tactically sound, offensively."

Registering eight goals the day before, RHS' Lady Demons had sent the 'Cats home pondering a big (but somewhat reassuring) what-if: What if starting goalkeeper Nicole Williams had not been injured early, forcing Fenity to make the snap decision to

stick inexperienced Shannon Mestas between the pipes?

"Yesterday's game I actually thought we played really well," said Fenity of the Solar Ranch trip, "and we had to put Shannon in, who's never played before. So...they're not eight goals better than us."

Taking the chilly pitch against PSHS with a mending Williams, IHS was soon—enemy senior Brooklynn DuCharme's fifth-minute goal shoved to the backs of their brains—asking a far greater what-if:

What if we actually beat these girls?

For just as the re-building Lady Pirates (2-5, 2-4 SWL) showed confidence in Lindsey Kurt-Mason's instructions to link passes, change field and direction of their attack, and keep the ball as far from rookie goalie Rose Graveson (a sophomore) as possible, the Lady Bobcats appeared to do likewise in all regards with Fenity and assistant Oscar Cosio yelling instructions. "We've been working combination plays, working diagonal runs, using the width of the field to our advantage," Fenity said, "and I think we demonstrated that."

PSHS soph Anissa Lucero scored in the 24th minute, but Ignacio regrouped to hold until Lucero struck in the 56th off an assist from freshman Johannah

Laverty. Senior Sydney Aragon booked the Lady Pirates' fourth in the 65th, somehow to the short side of Williams, but with Williams finishing with a press-counted 20 total saves, Springs went wanting again until the full-time whistle sounded in the 83rd. IHS (1-6, 1-6) managed three shots at Graveson (two saves), with one staying on net, but the only area in which the locals were truly 'beaten'—by an 11-3 margin—was the corner-kick category.

Up next for the Lady 'Cats—the April 17 trip to BHS was completed after the Drum went to print—will be Round 2 against Ridgway on the 21st (IHS Field, 11 a.m.), prior to a three-match road swing (4/24 at Alamosa, 4/27 at Center, 5/4 at PSHS) ending the regular season.

The RHS match will be the last at home—already—for seniors Abeth Okall and Shawni Troup and Carly Barborinas. Okall and Troup have played primarily on the back line, while Barborinas has directed traffic through midfield.

GOT 'ER DONE: Ignacio downed CHS' Lady Vikings 4-1 on April 10 to record their first win in 2012. Junior Destinee Lucero, marked relentlessly by Pagosa, booked a hat trick after Barborinas got IHS on the board with what would eventually stand as the match-winner.

Bobcats tighten SJBL race

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Having already seen their opponents—via their opening five batters—enjoy a start they'd sought, it took all of five pitches last Thursday for Pagosa Springs to answer, with senior Tyson Ross taking Ignacio's Clayton Jefferson over 380 feet to dead center for the 3A Pirates' first homer of 2012.

52 pitches and nine more runs later, Jefferson finally retired counterpart Caden Henderson to end a taxing 40-minute inning. And though IHS responded quickly—a three-run rally with two outs—starting the second, the damage ultimately proved irreparable in a 16-6 loss, finalized via a bizarre 'sacrifice fly.'

PSHS three-hole hitter Austin DeVooght belted a shot to center, but Bobcat senior Jeff Herrera made a fine catch—surprising Pirate Sean Blanchard, who'd led off the bottom of the fifth with a single to left and then stolen second base...and who'd apparently forgotten to tag up when Herrera made the grab.

Having already rounded third base as Herrera showed the ball to all, Blanchard touched home plate as the relay throw smacked into the Strohecker Field backstop. Through the confusion, the 'Cats

slowly threw the ball back out to second base to appeal to the umpires—and hopefully double off Blanchard (3-3, 4 R, RBI), nullifying the mercy-rule run and prolonging the contest.

But with neither official apparently having seen the Pirate's tag, or lack of one, the score stood and brought an end to the non-league contest in frigid, blanket weather where the sun only shone for show.

Ignacio freshman catcher Iaasic Pena went 1-for-2, plating both Jefferson (2-3, 2B, 2 R) and senior Tyler Young in the first with a single up the middle, and also drew a third-inning walk, but was frozen on a called third strike to end the Bobcats' fourth with Young on third base and Jesse Vigil on first.

Having hammered Henderson (CG; 7 H, 4 ER, 3 BB, 10 K) for two doubles—one hopping over the fence in deep left-center—and a 2-RBI triple to right, Young stayed hot (even though the weather was somehow worse than in Archuleta County) in IHS' return to SunUte Field two days later against Dolores.

Two-for-three with the bat, Young's chief contribution to a 9-8 escape was his right arm. Credited with the last one-and-a third frames against Pagosa, 'T.Y.' answered another, longer

relief call to shut down the Bears—earning the win with seven strikeouts in five innings.

Jefferson had taken the loss against Pagosa, going just the one inning (6 H, 8 ER, 2 HB, 2 BB).

Herrera (1-2, 2 R at PSHS) again proved potent as Ignacio's leadoff batter, going 3-for-4 against DHS as the 'Cats improved to 2-6 overall, and to 1-1 in the log-jammed 2A/1A San Juan Basin League.

First-year junior Dawrence Romero rapped a crucial two-run triple in the IHS fifth against Cody Carroll (L; CG, 14 K), to "put us over the top," according to head coach Ardie Eleck.

"Things went really well," he said afterwards, defrosting like everyone else as flakes began flying furiously, "and I was happy with how we did."

Dey Campuzano went 3-5 (3 R) for Dolores (2-7, 1-1), and Tyler Weir was 2-4 with 2 RBI.

The SJBL slate's long haul greets Ignacio this weekend, with tomorrow's trip to Dove Creek (11 a.m. start) the first of three consecutive varsity doubleheaders. The Bobcats then visit Dolores on April 24 (1 p.m. start) with Nucla—whom IHS traveled to on the 17th, after the Drum had gone to print—coming to town on the 28th (11 a.m.).

Richmond scores All-2A nod

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Clinton Portis made his exit from the Denver Broncos' backfield prior to the 2004 season.

But for the last four years—in Ignacio High School's hallways, at least—his name lives on...

...through now-senior Shane Richmond's sobriquet, acquired long ago but which has endured—beyond the gridiron, where he was an interior lineman—to the point of it being regarded by outsiders as his given name. Count the scribes of the Denver Post in that company.

Dubbed 'Shane Portis-Richmond' by the publication, the Bobcat big was included among the Honorable Mention All-2A basketball players for his work during the 2011-12 season [the list was released April 11], after which he was also named the 2A/1A San Juan Basin League's Player-of-the-Year.

Had it not been for Sanford in the Region III finale, Richmond would almost assuredly have bulled his way through opposing low-post players to the tune of a 600-point campaign (reported stats have him finishing his one-year rampage with 585—an average of 25.4 per game). He also averaged eight rebounds per contest (SHS, fortunately for themselves, held him to just five).

Senior guard Xavier Watts averaged just 4.5 ppg, but did notch an even century—helped by the fact that 23 of his 34 field goals made came from beyond the three-point arc. He was also an All-SJBL selection, as was starting backcourt mate Clayton Jefferson.

Coming on strong late in the season, the sophomore point guard upped his season scoring average to 7.1 ppg by booking 45 points during Ignacio's four district- and regional-tournament games. And All-SJBL forward Adison Jones had about as fine a season as a freshman could hope for, posting norms of 8.2 points and 6.9 boards during IHS' 23 outings—showing that the next addition to the Bobcats' impres-



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio forward/center Shane Richmond (10) crashes for a rebound during road action at Norwood. Richmond was named the SJBL's Player-of-the-Year for the 2011-12 season.

sive lineage of paint powers is already in uniform.

Finally, head coach Chris Valdez was named the SJBL's Coach-of-the-Year after a season ending a perfect 11-0 in the loop, 18-5 overall, and with yet another district-tourney title in hand.

ONE OVER ALL: How dynamic was Richmond's production in 2011-12? One stat truly jumps out—that he topped, by well over 100 points, an entire team's season output.

The Nucla Mustangs amassed just 462 points in their 18 games. Ouray wasn't too far in the clear, posting 802 in their 20 (Richmond would have needed 35 per outing to hit 802; he had nine games of 30 or more, and often sat major minutes when the outcome wasn't in doubt), and neither was Dolores (831 in 19).

KEEPING PACE: In addition,

Richmond wasn't too far from being the top scorer in the state—a distinction going to 6'9" Josh Scott (28.5 ppg, 9 rpg) of Monument-based Lewis-Palmer, Class 4A champs.

ON THE SMALL SIDE: Also awarded props from the Post from the SJBL were Norwood senior Nick Rushing (Second Team All-1A) and sophomore Morgan Rummel (Honorable Mention).

HOW IT PLAYED OUT: In the 2A championship Denver Christian beat Limon 54-50 inside the Pueblo Events Center, ending 26-0 for outgoing coach Dick Katte while Limon ended 23-4. Iliff-based Caliche won the 1A title, 83-77 over Sierra Grande [Blanca] at the Budweiser Events Center in Loveland.

DC's Austin LeFebre, a 6'5" senior, was named Player-of-the-Year.



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio guard Xavier Watts (12) hoists up a three-pointer over a late-arriving Telluride defender during action inside IHS Gymnasium. Watts was tabbed All-SJBL for the 2011-12 season. Ignacio guard Clayton Jefferson (11) whips a wrap-around pass under an airborne Bayfield Wolverine inside IHS Gymnasium this season. Jefferson was named All-SJBL for his work.

Setting the table(s)

standings as of April 16, 2012

Baseball: 2A/1A San Juan Basin League										Girls' Soccer: 3A Southwestern League									
Team	W	OVERALL			W	SJBL				Team	W	OVERALL			W	SWL			
		L	Pct.			L						L	T	Pct.		L	T		
Dove Creek	3	4	.428		2	0				Bayfield	8	0	0	1.000	6	0	0		
IGNACIO	2	6	.250		1	1				Telluride	9	1	1	.818	6	1	1		
Dolores	2	7	.222		0	2				Ridgway	4	2	0	.667	4	2	0		
Nucla	2	7	.222		0	2				Alamosa	5	2	1	.625	3	2	1		
										Pagosa Spgs.	2	5	0	.286	2	4	0		
										IGNACIO	1	6	0	.143	1	6	0		
										Center	0	8	0	.000	0	7	0		

—compiled by Joel Priest